MARINE
RECREATIONAL INFORMATION
PROGRAM

FY Project Plan

Electronic Data Collection for Angler Intercept Surveys: A Pilot Project

Created on

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1. Overview

1.1. Background

Traditionally, recreational fishing surveys on the West coast have been conducted using paper and pencil survey forms in which a skilled sampler interviews anglers to collect very specific information about their fishing trip and the nature of the species they caught and released, as well as biological data of observed catch. Completed interview forms are returned to the department office by the samplers on some predetermined schedule. Once gathered, a sampling supervisor will review the survey forms for completeness and accuracy, making hand-written edits on the physical forms. When a mass of completed survey forms has been collected, the paper forms are sent to a central office to be key entered into a data processing system. An electronic file is produced which can be used by various systems for calculating and tabulating catch and effort estimates to be disseminated to fishery managers. The cycle time to turn data into results is excessive, making it difficult to make timely management decisions based on data that was collected as much as a month or two prior.

1.2. Project Description

Our goal is to develop an electronic system for angler interview data collection to streamline the process and provide higher quality data.

1.3. Objectives

1. Reduce the cycle time to collect and key enter data by capturing data instantaneously, eliminating the need to enter it after the data collection phase has been completed.
2. Capture more accurate data through use of menu choices, minimizing the need to hand write responses and interpret them later.
3. Confirm validity of responses by building in instant, on-line data checks to assure responses are valid and consistent with other data for the interview.
4. Provide data accessibility for immediate short term needs, thereby negating the need to run hand tabulations of counts for closely managed species.

1.4. References

2. Methodology

2.1. Methodology

Research and review all previous attempts to collect intercept data via handheld electronic format to assess successes and challenges.

Research and determine whether there are existing vendor solutions that will adequately meet our needs or whether a custom solution is required.

If build is required, program an open-source, multi-platform data capture application that will wirelessly transmit point-of-access intercept survey data from a handheld device to a PSMFC server in real time. Design will be focused on a tablet- type of entry device that can possibly be extended for use on a handheld (mobile-phone) platform as well.

Application will be tested in-house using fictitious data to assure correct operation and proper advancement of screens to survey questions, drop-down menus, etc.

Once programming has been tested and found to be stable, devices will be tested on field interviews alongside paper and pencil sampler for ease of use and efficiency

2.2. Regions

2.3. Geographic Coverage

One West coast state will be selected to conduct the pilot project

2.4. Temporal Coverage

2.5. Frequency

2.6. Unit of Analysis

Angler interview

2.7. Collection Mode

Electronic data collection

3. Communications Plan

3.1. Internal

Development project team will be small, locally-based and have daily communication. In the field-testing phase, weekly conference calls will be held to check progress and share feedback on data collection.

3.2. External

Early on, representatives from each state will be contacted to discuss needs and outcomes from any previous attempts to collect intercept data in a handheld electronic format.

4. Assumptions and Constraints

4.1. New Data

No

4.2. Track Costs

4.3. Funding Vehicle

RecFIN grant

4.4. Data Resources

4.5. Other Resources

4.6. Regulations

4.7. Other

5. Risk

5.1. Project Risk

Table 1: Project Risk

Risk Description	Risk Impact	Risk Probability	Risk Mitigation Approach

6. Final Deliverables

6.1. Additional Reports

Final report will be created to evaluate the outcomes of the pilot project and provide recommendatio

6.2. New Data Sets

6.3. New Systems

7. Project Leadership

7.1. Project Leader and Members

Table 2: Project Members

Project Role	Name	Organization	Title

8. Project Estimates

8.1. Project Schedule

Table 3: Project Schedule - Major Tasks and Milestones

#	Schedule Description	Planned Start	Planned Finish	Prerequisites	Milestones

8.2. Cost Estimates

Table 4: Cost Estimates

Project Need	Cost Description	Date Needed	Estimated Cost
TOTAL			$0.00